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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03756 040916Z

21
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EB-11 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /039 W
---------- 017648
R 040845Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0414
INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

UNCLAS LISBON 3756

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, PO
SUBJ: AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A LISBON 3217
(B) LISBON 25
(C) LISBON 4459 OF DECEMBER 6, 1973
(D) LISBON 1001

1. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION FERREIRA LIMA INFORMED US LAST WEEK THAT A DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS CONCERNING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL LISBON AIRPORT AT RIO FRIO.

2. FERREIRA LIMA SAID THERE IS NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT LISBON REQUIRES A NEW AIRPORT. IN VIEW OF CHANGES OCCURING WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, HOWEVER, THE PROJECT AS VIEWED PRIOR TO APRIL 25 NOW SEEMS OVERLY AMBITIOUS. HE EXPECTS THAT GOP WILL ADOPT A PLAN PROVIDING FOR A NUCLEUS AIRPORT THAT CAN BE EXPANDED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS AS THEY ARISE. FERREIRA LIMA WASNON-COMMITTAL WHEN ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DEAL ONLY WITH THOSE FIRMS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SHORT LISTED (REFTEL B). HE ALSO SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON WHETHER THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD BE A TURN-KEY PROJECT OR TENDERED ON THE BASIS OF SEPARATE CONTACTS FOR THE DIFFERENT PHASES
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INVOLVED.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL
AT EXISTING LISBON AIRPORT (PORTELA, FERREIRA LIMA
SAID HE WAS WORKING ON A REPORT WHICH HE MUST
DELIVER TO HIS MINISTER (MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND ENVIRONMENT) "WITHIN FIVE DAYS." THIS TERMINAL,
HE SAID, IS SEESENTIAL AND MUST BE BUILT AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. HE WOULD NOT SAY, HOWEVER, WHETHER
ONLY THOSE FIRMS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED
BIDS WOULD BE CONSIDERED. HE INDICATED THAT
THIS WAS ONE OF THE POINTS THE MINISTER MUST NOW DECIDE.

4. COMMENT: LISBON'S AIRPORT NEEDS ARE AMONG THE
PREREVOLUTION ARY PROJECTS BEING "RETHOUGHT" BY
THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE GOP, HOWEVER, IS CLEARLY
AWARE THAT IT CANNOT DELAY DECISIONS FOR LONG IF
IT EXPECTS THE PROJECTS TO MATERIALIZE WHEN THEY
ARE NEEDED. WE BELIEVE FERREIRA LIMA IS SINCERE
WHEN HE SAYS THAT INTENTIONS REGARDING THE NEW
AIRPORT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC WITHIN THE NEXT
MONTH OR TWO AND SOONER THAN THAT FOR THE PASSENGER
TERMINAL AT PORTELA.
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